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will change any color  
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contains no poisons. Anyone can use it. One  
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Smoking Tobacco is an excellent article of gran-  
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LORILLARD'S "YACHT CLUB"  
Smoking Tobacco has an superior; being dis-  
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It is produced from selections of the finest  
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It is very aromatic, mild, and light in weight,  
and it will last much longer than other to-  
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(From the work "The Vermont Brigade in the  
Shenandoah Valley.")  
CEDAR CREEK.

The new historic stream which gave its  
name to the remarkable battle which was  
the subject of the present chapter is a  
shallow, rapid river, perhaps thirty yards  
wide, flowing across the Upper Shenan-  
doah Valley, just where it debouches into  
the Lower Valley, which, it will be re-  
membered, from Cedar Creek to the  
Potomac unites the width of the Upper  
Valley and the Luray. The Shenandoah  
here sweeps round the base of the rocky  
and precipitous Massanutten mountain,  
hugging its foot and turning to the east  
with a sharp right angle, at the very  
apex of which it receives the waters of  
Cedar Creek, coming from a prolongation  
of the new direction of the river. The  
turnpike from Winchester to Staunton  
crosses the creek about a mile above its  
junction with the Shenandoah. Middle-  
bury is two miles this side of the bridge;  
Strasburg two miles beyond it. Hills,  
perhaps three hundred feet high, rise  
irregularly on each side of the creek.  
The army was facing south; General  
Croker's command lay on the left of the  
turnpike, occupying several hills which  
overlooked the junction of the two streams.  
The creek protecting the left flank of  
the army, though without watching suf-  
ficiently the fords of the river. The  
19th corps was across the pike on Croker's  
right, on other hills along the higher side  
of the creek; the 6th corps was next in  
line, and the last of the infantry, Getty's  
2d division, on the extreme right of all,  
being refused so that it faced westerly.  
The cavalry corps lay out right and be-  
hind as pickets from the division were  
four miles from camp, guarding in con-  
nection with the cavalry, the line of the  
creek clear across the valley.

General Wright being now in com-  
mand of the army, General Ricketts suc-  
ceeded to the command of the corps.

Our position was a good one, and, as  
far as human foresight could reach, a safe  
one, though perhaps too much reliance  
was placed on the demoralization of the  
enemy. In flanking it General Early  
adopted Sheridan's tactics at Fisher's  
Hill, where the same 5th corps, that was  
first attacked and routed here, by climb-  
ing the mountain side, had turned the  
line which Early assumed his men could  
by no possibility be flanked. The suc-  
cessful attack of Early at Cedar Creek  
was as admirable as our own at Fisher's  
Hill, and even more audacious, as it in-  
volved the double fording of a rapid river  
to outmaneuver with the certainty of  
complete destruction in a case of failure.

It has always been somewhat of a  
mystery where Early obtained the troops  
with which he fought this battle. The  
previous engagements had cost him fully  
twenty thousand men horsed combat, in-  
cluding prisoners, and as many more of  
stragglers. Kershaw's division, however,  
which had retired through the Luray Val-  
ley, had been recalled, and Pegram's  
division had joined him. From Long-  
street's corps, the scattered rem-  
nants of other divisions had been col-  
lected from their hiding places in the forests  
and the mountains. It is certain, also,  
that a large body estimated by "Druid"  
had been raised by the last ruthless con-  
scription in the vicinity of Gordonsville  
and Lynchburg. It has been asserted  
that many of these men were without  
ammunition, having gathered arms on the  
field in our anticipated rout. Probably,  
however, but few unarmed men were in  
the enemy's lines. A letter from Rich-  
mond to a paper further south at the time  
in question says that the force thus con-  
centrated was "good for" 50,000 men,  
and that 15,000 reserves were to be cal-  
led out. This, however, was a greatly  
exaggerated estimate. Sheridan had re-  
ceived reinforcements, and we could  
not have had 25,000 men, representing  
fully equipped, including the cavalry,  
which did nothing until evening. Early  
must have had 20,000 infantry at the  
very least. His plan was to attack us  
in detail and rout our divisions successively  
from the left. We shall see that he  
succeeded until he reached the last divi-  
sion in the line, Getty's, which Sheridan  
truly says was the only division of the  
infantry which confronted the enemy  
from the first attack in the morning until  
the battle was decided.

Every circumstance, save the difficulty  
of the ground, favored Early's project.  
The night was utterly dark, the morning  
chilly and raw, owing to dense fog which  
did not lift until 9 o'clock, and complete-  
ly veiled all the movements of the enemy  
whereas the position of our camps had  
been previously carefully studied and  
mapped by officers from the summit  
of the mountain and the Shenandoah  
river, there was space amid the debris  
for a wagon road and a then dismantled  
railroad leading from Strasburg to Front  
Royal. The river was crossed near that  
village at dark on the 18th by the divi-  
sions of Gordon, Pegram, and Ransom,  
which at once commenced cautiously  
picking their way down the rugged road  
of the railroad, no officer mounted, in  
the darkness and forest and fog, until  
they reached what is known as Bowman's  
Ford, outside of Croker's furthest pickets.  
Powell's cavalry division was still further  
down the river opposite Front Royal and  
out of reach. Had the ford between  
Croker and Powell been carefully protect-  
ed, it is probable that the surprise could  
not have taken place. It had been sup-  
posed and with great reason, that our  
right flank was the enemy's only feasible  
point of approach.

As the column reached Bowman's Ford  
it again crossed the breast-high Shenan-  
doah and stole in single file close up to  
the fires of our resident outposts, until  
at 4 A. M. the gray battalions had de-  
veloped, with Gordon on the right, completely  
overlapping Croker's encampment.

That they were thus permitted delib-  
erately to make ready for the charge  
seems almost incomprehensible. The  
victories should have given the alarm  
afterwards related that they heard a  
sound as of a going amid the rustling  
leaves through the night hours, but they  
were unable to comprehend its purport;  
it was even reported among the other  
portions of the army that General Gor-  
don actually relieved part of Croker's  
picket line, and then sent the men as  
prisoners to their rear.

The direction of attack was west;  
the enemy's right was drawn up facing  
the turnpike, reaching far towards Middle-  
bury.

while his left followed the course of  
Croker's line, getting between his works  
and the creek, and connecting with War-  
ton's division, which had meanwhile cross-  
ed the creek a little below the turnpike  
bridge. Early himself, with Kershaw's  
large division, was near the bridge with  
artillery planted on the hills, ready to  
cross as soon as Croker should be swept  
aside, while his cavalry were on the back  
road far away to the west near the Little  
North mountain.

It was at this latter point that the bat-  
tle commenced; very early, probably be-  
fore 4 o'clock, we were aroused by a  
dropping fire of musketry in that direc-  
tion, at one time quite considerable in  
amount, but as it diminished soon we  
wrapped ourselves again in our blankets  
and resumed our sleep, fully confident  
that our pickets could take care of the  
enemy, and that the rest of the army  
would be in time to repulse them.

The first reports reported lost from the  
brigade in the day's battle were taken at  
that time. Captain C. J. Lewis, of the  
11th Vermont, an exceedingly careful  
officer, was in charge of our extreme  
right reserve post, and Colonel Foster, of  
the 4th Vermont, was field officer of the  
division. The cavalry on his right were  
deceived by the stake fire of an attack  
and retired, leaving their posts to the  
infantry. A larger force instantly passed  
through the gap and fell with a yell upon  
the rear of the infantry reserves; the  
greater part of them escaped, and after  
a rapid retreat towards our camp, deploy-  
ed into a rude skirmish line and still cov-  
ered the corps, keeping up a free fight on  
their own account until they knew from  
the sound of the battle behind them that  
our army had left its ground, when they  
raised a doubt as to the real point of at-  
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